



VAROSHA

2016

What's NEW for 2016?

*GREATER financial accountability, oversight of our projects, web and social media presence!
NEW team members, ideas, and projects!*

With the same dedication and goal of helping people become self-sufficient and hopeful about their futures.

Bikramjit Dewanjee, is a Chartered Accountant, CPA, MBA and holds a Credit Risk Certification. With 21 years of experience in global commerce and investment banking, having worked as an auditor and now as a successful entrepreneur he will bring a wealth of practical experience to help Varosha in the area of Strategic Planning and Project Management. Bikramjit has been an active supporter and is now committed to helping shape the future of Varosha.



Shompita Bhattacharya is an Engineering Quality Manager at Motorola Solutions. Shompita volunteered as webmaster for Palatine High School and is excited to help the Varosha team as our new webmaster.



*We welcome our new
team members and
thank them for
volunteering their time
and expertise.*



Shuvani Sanyal is pursuing her residency training in Internal Medicine & Pediatrics at the University of Illinois Hospital & Health System. She is looking forward to being a part of Varosha and initiating health education programming with the communities it serves.



Chandrima Roy is a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Governmental Studies, Northern Illinois University with over 20 years of experience in Geographic Information Systems. Her expertise includes application of GIS techniques to regional and local economic development, community development, growth management and sustainability. With three generations of family and friends in the field of social welfare and a commitment to uplifting people she will be a valuable member of the fundraising team.

Our sincere thanks to Subhashish Ghosh and Rik Ghosh for spending a great deal of time and effort on our new Varosha website. We hope to upload videos and photos to keep our patrons up to date on the progress of our projects. www.varosha.org

*"Service to others is the rent you
pay for your room here on earth."
Muhammad Ali*

Healthcare Assistants Training



A need was identified for trained people to administer medical care more than traditional, “aayas”. Varosha with our partner HVR in Kolkata began a 6-month training program which taught hygiene, how to take blood pressure, pulse and temperature, first aid, administering medications, pregnancy care, new born care, special care for low birth weight and preterm babies, basic physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

A pilot program was launched in July 2015 by placing an advertisement in Bartaman Patrika for interested candidates. After screening and registration procedures, the students were taught by Dr. Ena Poddar, Dr. Arup Chakrabartty, Dr. Swagat Bhattacharya and professional nurses from 6th September to 6th December. Physiotherapy classes were taught by Mr. Somun Talukder and Mr. Raja Bose in November. The students began practical training from December 2015 to the end of February 2016 in the New Avenue Nursing Home, New Town and other private medical centers. After successful completion of the pilot program the students quickly found jobs in homes or medical clinics.



We were very encouraged by the success of the pilot program and have begun a second round of training classes in June 2016. This session we have 15 female students and 3 men (who, once trained will be able to assist physiotherapists in male hospital wards). Currently the theory classes are underway.

The pilot program and the second round of training were entirely funded by a generous donation from Dr. Adrija Das and Dr. Amitava Das. We thank them for helping train the students and giving them an opportunity to have a rewarding job and financial security. We are planning to continue this training as long as we can identify students who are interested and committed.

Children's Centers – Dipto Alo



The Children's Academies in Kulti and New Alipore and the theater, dancing and graphic arts center in New Alipore, Jibon Alo, hold a very special place in our hearts. We are grateful to the caring teachers who have helped the students in Dipto Alo as we start our fourth year, teaching the children English, practical math skills and basic computer skills. Last year we had 92% retention of students and they were able to meet the assigned benchmarks of progress. We are able to provide a nurturing environment after school for them to learn, grow and interact. This project was initiated by a grant from Dr. Prodyot K. Day, in memory of his son, Pradipta.



“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”
FDR

Aranyer Alo



In 2014, we started this project in the Khulna district of Sundarban. Initially ten families were selected to be trained and supported in fish farming. A demonstration pond was set up and populated with fish. After six months, the fish were harvested and sold.

Many of the families had backyard ponds where they could carry out aquaculture themselves. The families had other livestock (goats) and ducks on their property and they sold eggs or meat. All the families were given seeds and fertilizers and taught how to grow different vegetables and rotate their crops. At the end of one year, these families became self-sufficient.

We have started the same project with 18 new families. Varosha is supporting their small family farms as they grow vegetables, and raise hybrid hen, ducks, and goats by providing seeds, plants and feed and also through the support of an onsite coordinator.



Tailoring Projects



We are pleased that several of our projects have reached maturity and we are at the stage where we can hand over responsibilities to the trained beneficiaries.

The centers under the Sonar Alo banner, after six years of training women in needlework, machine embroidery, tailoring, fabric painting and printing have reached maturity. In phone conversations our beneficiaries indicated that they are earning between Rs. 2000 and 4000 per month. During the last few years we were able to bring the works of our beneficiaries for display during Mahalaya celebrations in Chicago. In the second half of 2016, we will be exiting from these projects after giving sufficient time and resources for our beneficiaries to transition successfully.

The tailoring programs under Puber Alo in Goragacha, New Alipore and Kulti and Jorir Alo in Thakurpukur are continuing successfully.



We express our sincere gratitude to Subrota Mukherjee for 11 years of dedicated service to Varosha and wish him all the best in the future.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”
Mahatma Gandhi

Managed By	Program	Location	# of Beneficiaries
Health Vision Research	Sonar Alo	Kumrokhali, Ukila, Kandakpur	50
	Ashar Alo	Jagatpur and Salt Lake	30
	Aranyer Alo	Khulna district, Sundarban	10 families
	Heathcare Assist.	Laketown	15 (pilot)
Pub Paschim	Jorir Alo	Thakurpukur	15
	Puber Alo	Goragacha, New Alipore and Kulti	40
	Dipto Alo	New Alipore and Kulti	50
	Jibon Alo	New Alipore	10

Note from the Directors

This year we have included an insert with our financial statement for 2015. It lists our sources of receipts as well as a breakdown of our expenditures by project. We hope it will provide a clear picture of our operations. While Varosha's budget may be considered modest compared to other nonprofits, we try hard to direct the funds to impact the lives of people positively. We are proud that all the funds we raise go towards project expenses. The administrative costs are borne by our directors.

We are grateful to our partners in Kolkata for their hands-on management of our projects: Dr. Arup Chakrabarty of Health Vision Research and Mr. Debsankar Ray of Pub Paschim. These programs are possible only because of our volunteers and the generosity of our patrons. With your support we will be able to continue these projects and even grow with more meaningful training programs. We welcome your questions, thoughts and comments. Please feel free to contact any of us.

Sincerely,
Santi Banerjee, Krishna Chakrabarty and Neela Dasgupta

Santi Banerjee
847 640 8092
banerjeesantimoy@yahoo.com

Krishna Chakrabarty
630 834 4388
krishnac@uic.edu

Neela Dasgupta
630 305 0963
neela.varosha@gmail.com



VAROSHA

886 Willson Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60016
www.varosha.org